

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A pointing device for use with a keyboard functions
like a computer mouse. It incorporates a plurality of
configurable function keys. The pointing device is
composed of a rolling surface capable of rotation and
translation that may activate a switch when it is
depressed. An optical sensor monitors the rotation and
translation of the rolling surface and translates that
10 motion into communications interpretable by a mouse
software driver. An edge sensor allows repositioning of
the rolling surface without cursor movement when limits
of travel are reached. The pointing device communicates
with the computer through a serial communication facility
15 such as a PS/2 or USB connection. The enclosure
containing the rolling surface incorporates an aperture
allowing a portion of the rolling surface to be available
for manipulation, an elevated support surface for the
keyboard and provision for palm rests.

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